

<b>The Parable of the Sower- Mark 4:1-8, 13-20, Stages and Obstacles in Sharing the Gospel</b>			
<b>Stages</b>			
Cultivation- The Soil	Sowing- The Seed, The Gospel	Harvesting- The Grain, reproduced life in Christ	Multiplication- The Crop & Christian community
<b>Explanation</b>			
Speaks to Heart- Focus: Caring/relationships	Speaks to Mind- Focus: Communication/ revelation	Speaks to Will- Focus: Conversion	Speaks to whole person- Focus: Completion, growth and going
<b>Emphasis</b>			
Presence of Believer, Building a friendship bridge	Presentation of Gospel, Giving understanding of truth	Persuasion, Encourage meaningful decision of faith	Participation, Integration into the body of Christ
<b>Obstacles for Sharing the Gospel</b>			
Indifference, antagonism towards sharing the gospel	Ignorance, error	Indecision, love of darkness	Isolation, inward focus
<b>Examples in Scripture</b>			
Nicodemus- John 3	Ethiopian Eunuch- Acts 8	Phillipian jailor- Acts 16	Jerusalem converts- Acts 2:40-41
Woman at Well- John 4	Woman at Well- John 4	Woman at Well- John 4	Samaritan awakening- Acts 8
<b>Reflective Questions:</b>			
Am I motivated to share Christ with others?			
Am I available to non-Christians?			
Am I equipped to share the gospel message?			
<b>Parable of the Sower – People/Soils and obstacles to the Gospel</b>			
Mark 4:15	On the path	The enemy takes away the seed/word	
Mark 4:16-17	On rocky soil	Commitment shy, receive it at first but give up because of persecution or trouble	
Mark 4:18-19	Among thorns	Worries of life, deceitfulness of wealth, worldly desires choke the word such that fruit is not produced	
Mark 4:20	On good soil	No obstacle- word is heard, accepted, and a crop is produced	

## **Drawing a Faith Journey Curve**

### **Steps toward receiving Christ in Faith**

- 0- Going my own way
- 1- Aware of a messenger or community
- 2- Have positive attitude toward a messenger or community
- 3- Aware of difference in messenger or community
- 4- First aware of Bible's relevance to life
- 5- Have positive attitude towards the bible
- 6- Aware of the basics of the bible
- 7- Understand the meaning and implications of the gospel
- 8- Has positive attitude toward the gospel
- 9- Recognize personal need
- 10- Decide to act
- 11- Repent and believe
- 12- New creation in Christ
- 13- Faith confirmation and grounding
- 14- Integrating into a caring community
- 15- Growing and maturing into Christlikeness
- 16- Motivated to see Christian faith reproduced in others

Jesus' greatest commandments-

<sup>37</sup> Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." <sup>38</sup> This is the first and greatest commandment. <sup>39</sup> And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' <sup>40</sup> All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

## THE ROMAN ROAD TO SALVATION

Romans 3:23 For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

Romans 5:8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 10:9-10 That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.

Romans 10:13 For, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

Romans 10:17 Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.

Romans 1:16 I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes. First for the Jew, then for the Gentile.

### FOLLOW UP:

1 Corith 10:23 "Everything is permissible"-but not everything is beneficial. "Everything is permissible"-but not everything is constructive.

Philippians 2:1-11 If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death- even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

# The Bridge

ROMANS 6:23 "The wages of sin is death But the gift of God is Eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord."

\*ROMANS 3:23 "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

MAN ♀

WE ALL  
Have sinned!

GOD

JESUS CHRIST

WAGES

SIN

death

GIFT

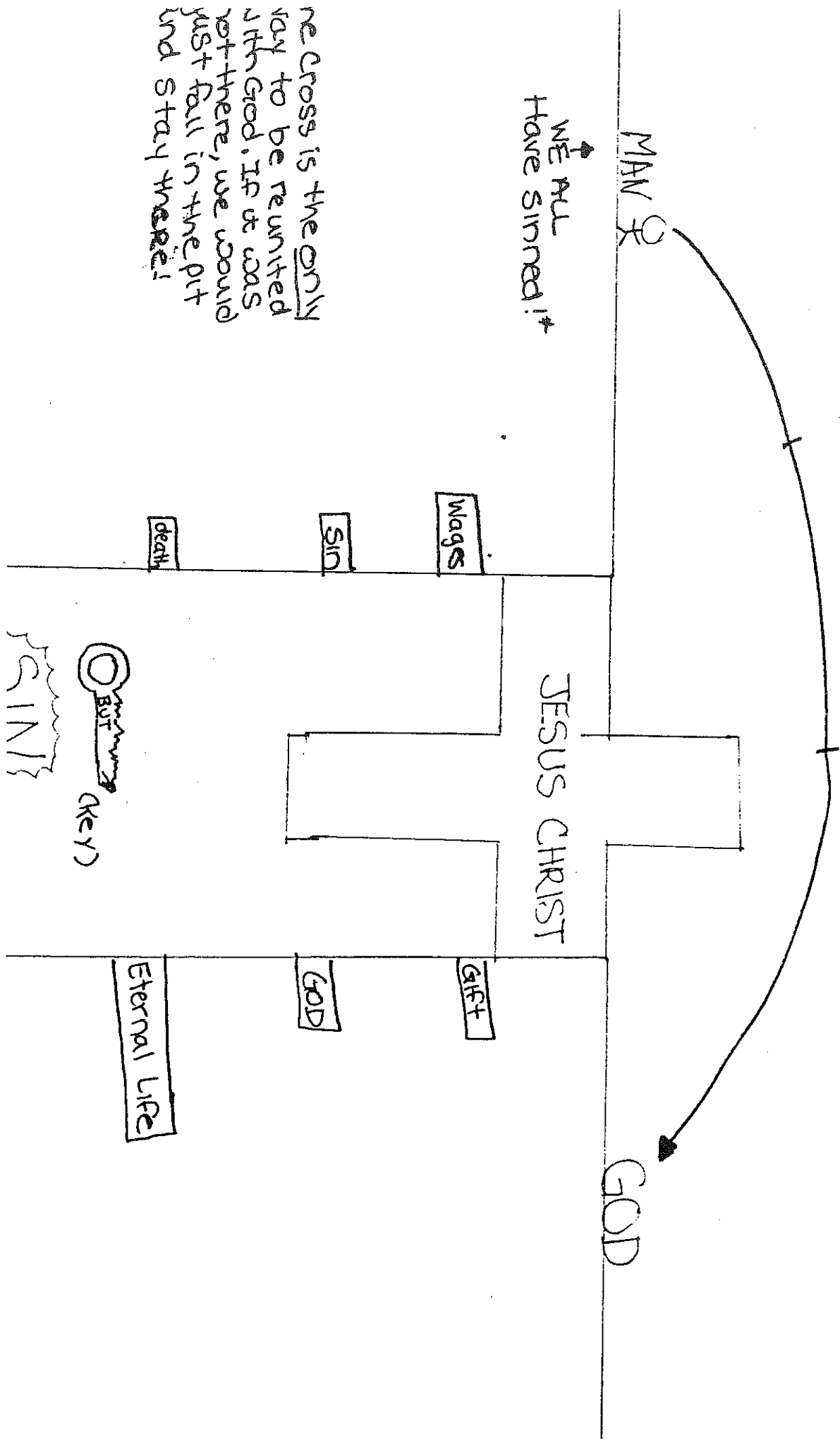
GOD

Eternal Life

But (KEY)

SIN

The cross is the ONLY way to be reunited with God. If it was not there, we would just fall in the pit and stay there!



5 min. Story of how come to Christ  
-Evangelism tool.

### TESTIMONY WORKSHEET

Primary Objective: To help you put together a clear presentation of your personal testimony (for a non-Christian audience) by bringing clarity and organization to the events surrounding your conversion.

#### I. BEFORE I RECEIVED CHRIST:

(What was my life like before I accepted Christ? What did my life revolve around? From what did I get my security or happiness? What was important to me?)

(How did those areas begin to let me down?)

#### II. HOW I RECEIVED CHRIST:

(When did I first hear the gospel or get exposed to Biblical Christianity? What were my initial reactions? What was different about people? How did I respond?)

What was the turning point in my attitude? What mental barriers did I experience & how were they removed?

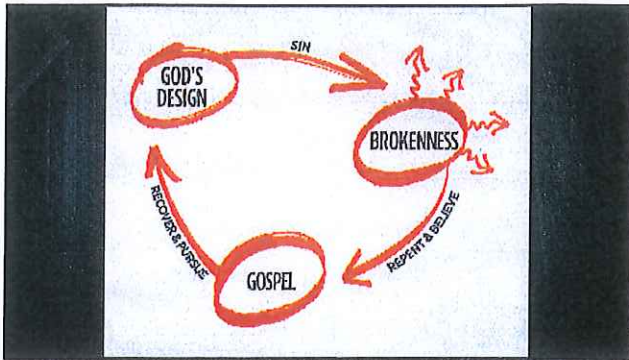
How did I receive Christ?

#### III. AFTER I RECEIVED CHRIST:

What specific changes I have seen in my life? How long did it take before I noticed changes? Why am I motivated differently? How does my relationship with Christ affect my decisions in activities, relationships, future, etc.?

# "3 circles: Life Conversation Guide"

[sendnetwork.com/3circles](http://sendnetwork.com/3circles)



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## What Should I Do?

Now that you have heard this Good News, God wants you to respond to Him. You can talk to Him using words like these:

*My life is broken — I recognize it's because of my sin. I need You.*

*I believe Christ came to live, die and was raised from the dead — to rescue me from my sin.*

*Forgive me. I turn from my selfish ways and put my trust in You.*

*I know that Jesus is Lord of all, and I will follow Him.*

**The Bible says:**

*"If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved" (Romans 10:9).  
"For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved" (Romans 10:13).*

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## What's Next?

As we begin our new journey, the Bible teaches us how to pursue God. He has a design for healthy relationships.

**Prayer** — God wants you to talk to Him about everything that matters to you.

**Church** — The local church is God's family to help you walk with Him.

**Bible** — The Bible reveals God's design — showing how to pursue Him.

**Share** — Now that you have experienced this Good News, tell others.

**The Bible says:**

*"So if you are invited to meet, go away before you are finished. It is better to go than to remain in your house" (John 20:14).  
"But seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you" (Matthew 6:33).  
"Therefore, as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, just as He is" (Colossians 2:6).*

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